

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 11, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MASON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Joint Resolution S. 18.]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate instructing them to inquire "whether it is in the contemplation of the government of Turkey to send to this country an officer of rank in their navy with a view to obtain information concerning American improvements in naval architecture and equipment, and to superintend the construction of one or more vessels of-war for the Turkish navy at the ship yards of this country ; and in such case, whether any, and what, steps should be taken by this government to manifest its good will towards the government of Turkey, by giving to such officer an appropriate reception, and otherwise to further the objects of his mission," have had the same under consideration, and now report :

To obtain the information required, the committee communicated the resolution of the Senate to the Secretary of State, and received in reply from him a copy of a letter from the honorable Carroll Spence, minister of the United States at Constantinople, to the Secretary of State, informing this government of the purpose of the government of Turkey to send to the United States Vice Admiral Mehmed Pasha, of the Turkish navy, accompanied by other officers, to superintend the construction of a three-decked ship which the Sultan had ordered should be constructed at one of the ship yards of the United States ; and that the minister of foreign affairs of the Sublime Porte had asked of Mr. Spence such letters of recommendation for the vice admiral to the officers of this government as would best facilitate the objects of his mission. The letter of Mr. Spence accompanies this report.

The committee agree with the minister that the mission referred to is one of interest to the country, not only as evidence of the confidence of the government of Turkey in the skill of our naval architects and mechanics, but also of a like confidence in the liberal disposition of the government of the United States to extend to that of Turkey every advantage in their power to insure the construction of a vessel that may realize the high expectations justly formed by the Sultan from

the science and skill of the naval constructors of the United States. And the committee are further of opinion that the occasion is a fit one to renew to the government of the Sultan evidences of the good will and friendly feeling of the United States, by receiving this high officer of that government in a manner becoming his rank and the character of his mission.

Such occasions of international courtesy are not without their fruits in cementing the good will and conciliating the good offices of nations toward each other, whilst their mutual interests are advanced by encouraging intercourse, and thus opening new channels of commerce.

As a like instance, the committee advert to the reception given under the sanction of Congress, in the year 1850, to Amin Bey, an officer of the Turkish navy, and who came to the United States to travel for general information, with the sanction of his government, though not otherwise introduced than by our own minister.

The committee append to this report the letter of Mr. Spence, and his correspondence with the government of Turkey.

Mr. Spence to Mr. Cass.

[Extract.]

[No. 52.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, November 8, 1857.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter addressed to me by his Highness Ali Pasha relative to the visit of Mehmed Pasha to the United States.

From this letter you will learn that the Sultan has determined to construct a vessel-of-war of three decks in the United States, and that I am requested to furnish Mehmed Pasha with letters to such of our public functionaries as may be of service to him in carrying into effect the intentions of the Sultan.

The Turkish authorities are particularly desirous that the vessel should not only be one which will justify the Sultan's choice of the country in which it is to be constructed, but they appear very desirous that the Pasha should be received with becoming distinction in our country.

The opinion which some individuals would be pleased to promulgate here, relative to the want of sympathy on the part of our government for Turkey, renders them particularly solicitous in reference to the action of our government in this matter. Since my stay here, it has been my endeavor to correct any opinion unfavorable to my government, and I am glad that the Sultan has given me a palpable proof of the success of my efforts. This proof, however, elicits from me a sincere desire that our government should testify its appreciation of the friendly disposition of the Sultan and of the compliment paid our mechanics by him, by extending towards his agent such acts of courtesy as would be gratifying to him.

I would therefore suggest to you the propriety of appointing some

person on the part of our government to receive the Pasha, and of inviting him to make a tour through the United States at the expense of the government.

This is the first time a Turk of any distinction has visited our country; and as the visit on this occasion is connected with a matter which will redound to the benefit of our mechanics, it would, in my opinion, be both proper and politic on the part of the government of the United States to treat him in such a manner as would be gratifying to the Sultan.

A few years ago Congress appropriated \$10,000 to defray the travelling expenses of a Turkish officer of inferior rank, without any political distinction; it would therefore be mortifying to a Pasha to be treated with less consideration.

I have every reason to believe that the action of our government towards Mehmed Pasha, will be particularly noticed by the Sultan and by the Sultan's brother-in-law, who is now minister of the Turkish marine.

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Mehmed Pasha will be accompanied by one or more Turkish officers, who speak English.

Perhaps it would be well for me to inform you, that when the treaty between Turkey and the United States was made the Turks insisted upon inserting in the treaty a stipulation concerning the construction of vessels in the United States. This stipulation was, however, omitted, and assurances were given the Ottoman government, by the negotiators of the treaty, that the government of the United States would, whenever the Sublime Porte desired to construct vessels in the United States, give its agents the benefit of its advice, &c.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

CARROLL SPENCE.

[Translation]

SUBLIME PORTE, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

November 5, 1857.

MR. MINISTER: The vice admiral, Mehmed Pasha, accompanied by Major Sulieman Efendi, proceeds to America, by order of the imperial government, in order to superintend the operations of building a three-decked vessel, which the imperial admiralty has determined to have constructed in a ship yard of the United States.

I have the honor to request you, Mr. Minister, to be so good as to write and transmit to me letters of recommendation for that superior officer to such of the authorities as you shall deem proper, the assistance of whom is indispensable to facilitate the accomplishment of his mission.

I embrace this opportunity to offer to you, Mr. Minister, the assurance of my perfect consideration.

ALI PASHA.

Mr. CARROLL SPENCE,

*Minister resident of the United States
of America at Constantinople.*

And in consonance with these views, recommend the adoption of the accompanying joint resolution,